

Exiles Claim Free Cuba Move Begun

Say Guerrilla War
Is About to Start
on Castro Island

BY DAVID KRASLOW
(Times Staff Writer)

MIAMI—A major exile group, the Revolutionary Junta (JURE), proclaimed Wednesday that "a new era of liberation is begun on Cuban soil," but it said nothing of the whereabouts of its leader, Manuel Ray.

Ray, former member of Premier Fidel Castro's cabinet, had promised to be back in Cuba by Wednesday, the island's independence anniversary, to launch an underground struggle against the Castro regime.

Rogelio Cisneros, who has taken charge of JURE in Ray's absence would say only that "things are going very well."

Exile forces led by Maj. Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo marked Cuban independence day by reiterating a warning that a plan of guerrilla warfare is about to be launched. The warning was broadcast to Cuba by shortwave radio.

Refuses Confirmation

Cisneros declined to say if he knew where Ray was, or even to confirm that Ray had begun his long-heralded and perilous voyage.

There was some indication that JURE leaders expected to receive by coded radio message from Cuba today confirmation of Ray's landing.

In another development, Miami-based monitors picked up Cuban government radio broadcasts that a B-26 with a Cuban flag and a "red shark" painted on its wings made diving passes at a launch off the southern coast of Oriente Province.

The broadcast was from Cabo Cruz, near where exiles raided sugar mills last week, to another government radio station in Manzanillo. It asked that the Cuban Navy be advised of the dives. No shots were fired.

Quotes Fisherman

The Cabo Cruz operator also quoted "Sigma 25"—apparently a fishing boat—as reporting a "light grey aircraft flew over them three times in dives" in the afternoon.

The B-26 report was broadcast at 6:45 p.m. EST over a microwave network the Cuban government uses for administrative communications.

JURE's "May 20 proclamation" was an appeal to "our brothers of the rebel army . . . our former companions . . . to rise again in arms against tyranny . . ."

The proclamation, drafted before Ray left for Cuba, was signed by 14 JURE leaders, including Ray and Hubert Matos Jr., son of one of the most popular heroes in Cas-

tro's revolution against Fulgencio Batista.

Maj. Hubert Matos was one of Castro's closest associates and one of the first to speak out against the betrayal of the democratic revolution to communism.

He is now serving a 30-year prison term in Cuba on charges of treason.

The proclamation declared:

"A gesture of glorious dimensions stands before the Cuban people: That of destroying the myth that it is incapable of liberating itself, which was begun by the Communist tyrant in order to perpetuate himself in power."

Ray hopes to reconstruct the Havana underground he headed during the revolution against Batista. He has in JURE some 100 or more former officers and members of Castro's rebel army, and his hopes now apparently are largely based on an appeal to former revolutionary comrades still serving Castro.

'Labor of Treason'

The proclamation was directed at "former companions who today contemplate in disenchantment the labor of treason . . ."

Castro's armed forces, meanwhile, remained on alert status, with signs of increasing tension inside Cuba as well as within Miami's large exile colony.

There were also unconfirmed reports that Gutierrez Menoyo, military commander of a coalition of three exile groups, landed in Cuba several days ago.

Dr. Armando Fleites, secretary general of the Second National Front, one of the groups in the coalition, would say only that in a "very short period" Gutierrez Menoyo's plan of guerrilla warfare "will take effect."

Fleites stressed that while

the politics of JURE and the coalition are similar (leftist but strongly anti-Communist), there is "at present" no co-ordination between Ray and Gutierrez Menoyo's counter-revolutionary undertakings.

One official of the Revolutionary Recovery Movement, who asked that he not be identified, said it would be "reasonable to expect developments" from that exile group shortly.

Went Underground

The MRR, a centrist organization headed by Manuel Artime, political leader of the brigade that fought at the Bay of Pigs in 1961, staged a hit-and-run raid on a Cuban sugar mill last week.

Ray went underground after resigning as public works minister in October, 1959. The 39-year-old engineer fled into exile in late 1960.

Gutierrez Menoyo, 30, served in Castro's rebel army and defected in January, 1961.